

What is Claimed is:

1. A method for detecting or quantitating an oligonucleotide in a bodily fluid or extract, comprising the 5 steps of:

contacting said fluid or extract with a probe complementary to said oligonucleotide, wherein said probe comprises a detectable marker and a binding moiety;

sub a, placing said fluid or extract in contact with a 10 solid support to which a binding partner of said binding moiety is attached;

contacting said fluid or extract with a single-strand specific nuclease under conditions in which probe which is not hybridized to said oligonucleotide is degraded; and

15 detecting a label associated with said marker, wherein the presence of said label indicates the presence of said oligonucleotide bound to said solid support.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein said bodily fluid is 20 plasma.

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein said oligonucleotide comprises at least one phosphorothioate linkage.

25 4. The method of Claim 1, wherein said oligonucleotide comprises a modification at the 2' position of at least one sugar moiety.

5. The method of Claim 4, wherein said 2' modification 30 is a 2'-O-methoxyethyl modification.

6. The method of Claim 1, wherein said oligonucleotide comprises at least one modified base.

35 7. The method of Claim 6, wherein said modified base is:

5-methylcytosine.

8. The method of Claim 1, wherein said marker is digoxigenin.

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9. The method of Claim 1, wherein said label is a colorimetric, radioactive, chemiluminescent, enzymatic or fluorescent label.

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10. The method of Claim 1, wherein said single-strand specific nuclease is S1 nuclease or mung bean nuclease.

11. The method of Claim 1, wherein said oligonucleotide is exogenously administered.

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